

SENATE BILL 146

By Kurita

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 4, Part 1, relative to performance audits of state agencies and departments with responsibilities for the regulation of energy conservation, production, and security.

WHEREAS, nonrenewable sources of energy are becoming increasingly limited and the locations of such nonrenewable sources are often subject to political instability or are governed by leaders whose interests may not be aligned with those of the United States; and

WHEREAS, consumption of nonrenewable sources of energy contributes to water and air pollution; and

WHEREAS, conservation of energy and use of renewable sources of energy reduce dependence on, and the impact of, consumption of nonrenewable sources of energy; and

WHEREAS, in 1983 the general assembly abolished the Tennessee energy authority and distributed the responsibilities for conservation of energy, the study and production of alternative sources of energy, and maintenance of energy security to various agencies and departments of the state; and

WHEREAS, many of the laws delegating authority to such agencies and departments have not been amended and may need to be updated to reflect institutional changes and advances in technology; and

WHEREAS, due to the urgent need for effective and creative coordinated action by the governor and the general assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 4, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section, thereto:

§ 8-4-118.

(a) On or before January 8, 2008, and biennially on or before the second Tuesday of the month of January thereafter, the comptroller of the treasury shall undertake a performance audit of those agencies and departments authorized or required by legislation or executive order to act relative to the conservation of energy, the study and production of alternative sources of energy, and energy security in the state. The comptroller of the treasury will assess the extent to which such agencies and departments have fulfilled their mandates and capitalized on authorizations relative to energy conservation, production, and security and shall report findings and recommendations to the environment, conservation, and tourism committee of the senate, the conservation and environment committee of the house, and the government operations committees of the senate and the house.

(b) Agencies and departments to be audited pursuant to this section shall include, but not be limited to: the department of environment and conservation, office of environmental assistance; the department of economic and community development, energy division; the department of finance and administration, division of real property administration, office of energy management; the department of general services, motor vehicles and purchasing divisions; the department of transportation; the Tennessee Regulatory Authority; the department of human services, low income home energy assistance program and weatherization assistance program; and the state building commission.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.